



Concept Note
Roundtable on Climate Action and
SDG 8: Climate action that promotes a just and
sustainable transition for all

UNFCCC COP 24
Katowice, Poland

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

Monday, 10 December 2018
11:30 – 13:00

High-Level Champions

MPGCA SDG 8: Climate action that promotes a just and sustainable transition for all

Description

Transitions to low-emission resilient economies must include just transition policies tailored for local, sectoral and vulnerability contexts with a principle of social dialogue. This event looks at how social inclusion measures and investment decisions assist in a just and sustainable transition.

Overall Narrative/Background

The Paris Agreement, in order to meet its commitments, calls for an expedited increase in implementation of policies for transitioning to low-emission resilient economies. The IPCC Special Report “Global Warming of 1.5 oC” further confirms that the GHG emissions must peak as soon as possible in 5-10 years. Impacts of such a rapid transformation on the work force, enterprises and communities are unavoidable. Managing these impacts and providing decent work and social protection is a crucial component of this transition, to make it a sustainable transition and to increase the mitigation and adaptation ambitions that are urgently needed. Studies estimate that about twenty-four million new jobs will be created in energy sector globally by 2030 if the right policies to promote a greener economy are put in place, but around six million jobs will be lost¹. Although overall, this seems to be a positive net increase of jobs, there are much larger social impacts on people dependent on these six million jobs considering jobs will not be created in same geographical location and time frame and will need new or different skills. Therefore, transitioning to low emission resilience economies will require social protection, as it affects global, regional and national economies in potentially profound ways, severely disrupting the lives of affected workers and their communities, with differentiated impacts depending on gender, location and sector vulnerability.

The challenges are further compounded for developing countries that are highly vulnerable to climate impacts. Furthermore, jobs created in the transition to a low-carbon resilient economy must be ‘decent’ – providing adequate incomes and social protection, safe working conditions, respect for rights at work and effective social dialogues. The need for a ‘just transition for the workforce’ is reflected in the ‘Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration’ that the Presidency of COP24 presents to the Heads of State and Government in Katowice.

Just transition measures are diverse, ranging from skilling and training programmes for both youth population and those who need reskilling, public employment programmes to cash transfers and payments for ecosystem services² or government-organized labour migration agreements seen among the Pacific countries³. Enabling policies allowing enterprises to adapt, innovate and respond to new production and consumption requirements are equally essential. But an underpinning principle is social

¹ International Labour Organization: World Employment and Social Outlook 2018: Greening with Jobs (2018)

² Ibid.

³ International Labour Organization Office for Pacific Island Countries: Compendium of Legislation and Institutional Arrangements for Labour Migration in Pacific Island Countries (2014). Suva, Fiji.

dialogue among workers, enterprises, governments and communities for an inclusive and clear plan that are tailored for specific circumstances.

One of the ways to assist a just transition is to ensure capital flows towards investments that ensures assets are allocated based on a sound set of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles that cater for issues such job creation, communities and skills. In the USA, assets under management with the ESG principles was USD 8.72 trillion in 2016, an increase of 33% in 2 years and representing nearly 22 % of total assets under management 40.3 trillion.⁴ This was supported by the G20 in June 2018, when 319 investors representing more than USD 28 trillion in assets declared that to ensure a smooth and just transition to a low-carbon resilient economy, it will be important that those workers and communities affected by the transition are supported.⁵

Objective of the event:

The objective of the event is to gain insight into how cooperation between Governments and non-Party stakeholders for inclusive and coherent policies can promote just and sustainable transition of workers and enterprises and assist social and economic development of the communities highly vulnerable to climate impacts. The roundtable will elicit success factors of climate actions that drive social dialogue (between social partners and other stakeholders) in both developed and developing countries, such as local content impact on population in developing countries, and unemployment protection and just transition fund in developed countries. Concrete examples will be shared by representatives of national and sub-national governments as well as cities and businesses. Existing international guiding frameworks such as the ILO Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all⁶ will be discussed.

The roundtable will also look at how the deeper integration of ESG principles in investment decisions can help to accelerate just transition. Recommendations for action and policies will be learned from investors and academia, including insights from a recent joint project by the London School of Economics and Harvard University 'Investing in Just Transition' that aims to provide guidance to investors, policy makers, businesses and communities on approaches that enable effective investor contributions to just transition.⁷ Throughout the discussion, perspectives of gender, youth and people with disability will be featured.

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⁴ [https://www.ussif.org/files/SIF_Trends_16_Executive_Summary\(1\).pdf](https://www.ussif.org/files/SIF_Trends_16_Executive_Summary(1).pdf)

⁵ https://theinvestoragenda.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/GISGCC-FINAL-for-G7-with-signatories_-update-4-June.pdf

⁶ International Labour Organization Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all [http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/news/WCMS_422575/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/news/WCMS_422575/lang-en/index.htm)

⁷ <https://www.unpri.org/download?ac=4718>